

SERMON NOTES

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David... A Man After God's Own Heart

Character Studies on the Life of David

1 Samuel 21:1-15 - "From Faith to Fear"

In our study of David's life, we have seen his strengths. He is called a man after God's heart, the Spirit of God was upon him and against impossible odds, he slew Goliath with a sling, a stone, and a faith in God.

But all was not well in David's heart and life. Because of the fear of man, little by little his faith in God's protection was being replaced by fear of what man could do to him.

Lesson: Even anointed people can fail if they panic rather than pray!

Today we sadly see David taking matters into his own hands. He begins to lie and scheme to protect himself. When he does things go from bad to worse – David's slide from faith to fear.

1. David told a lie (1 Samuel 21:1-7)

1 Samuel 21:1-7, "Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee? And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place. Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present. And the priest answered David, and said, There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel. So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away. Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul."

David is lying; sadly, it's not the first time.

1 Samuel 20:5-6, "And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even. If thy father at all miss me, then say, David earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city: for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family."

David is lying and scheming.

Where was God in his plan?

What about prayer?

David forgot that the Lord, who delivered him from the paw of the lion and the bear, could now deliver him from the hand of Saul.

David is losing his spiritual bearings.

He forgot the battle belongs to the Lord.

Notice how one lie leads to another (21:2)

Why?

David is on a slippery slope of dishonesty. When we lie and practice deceit we complicate our lives.

Illustration: The Tongue

James 3:1-8, "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

Proverbs 12:22, "Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight."

A little boy in Sunday School describing what a lie is: a lie is an abomination to the Lord and a very present help in times of trouble.

Commandment number nine: "*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*" (Exodus 20:16)

2. David believed a lie (1 Samuel 21:8-9)

1 Samuel 21:8-9, "*And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste. And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.*"

Once we start lying we become liars and become self deceived by believing our lie.

Erwin Lutzer, "David should have remembered that this weapon had not delivered Goliath! Why should he now think that it would deliver him? Nevertheless he took Goliath's sword and fled, walking past the valley of Elah where he had fought the giant with his sling. Then he kept going until he came to Gath, the territory Goliath had come from! He depended on his enemy's sword and his enemy's territory for protection.!

Where is the David who said, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted" (17:45). His faith in God vanished like dew in the face of the morning sun. In seeking the help of his enemies, David was confessing his lack of trust in the living God.

Lies we tend to believe:

- If I had more money I'd be happy
- If I had a new husband or wife I'd be happy
- I don't need God or fellowship, prayer or Bible study...
- I can make it on my own

Satan is a liar and the father of lies

He even lies to Christians!

- God won't forgive you
- God doesn't love you

The Bible, God's Word, is true!

3. David lived a lie (1 Samuel 21:10-15)

1 Samuel 21:10-15, " *And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath. And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? shall this fellow come into my house?"*

David has now hit an all time low!

The fear of man brings a snare.

It's amazing how men and women of faith can gradually become men and women of fear and unbelief.

If we step off of God's and try to trust our own plans and wisdom (lie & scheme); before long everything falls apart.

How about you today?

Lesson: When we are out of fellowship with God.

1. We make bad choices
2. We set in motion bad consequences

1 Samuel 22:7-23, " *Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds; That all of you have conspired against me, and there is none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day? Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king. And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord. And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day? Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house? Did I then begin to*

enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more. And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house. And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD. And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests. And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house. Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard."

Sin even if forgiven has it's consequences

- We may live with it for the rest of our lives

Our sin also hurts others

Save yourself much heart ache (Davis's pain), obey God

- stay in close fellowship with Him

Thankfully, even though David had slipped off the right path, God would not let David go far.

God, in His grace, brought David back!

4. What Did David learn?

Psalm 34 - A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed...

1. Remain humble (vs. 1-3)

Psalms 34:1-3, "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together."

2. Keep praying (vs. 4-7)

Psalms 34:4-7, "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

3. Trust god (vs. 8-10)

Psalms 34:8-10, "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing."

4. Be honest (vs. 11-14)

Psalms 34:11-14, "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it."

5. Live righteously (vs. 15-18)

Psalms 34:15-18, "The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

6. Rest in God (vs. 19-22)

Psalms 34:19-22, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate."